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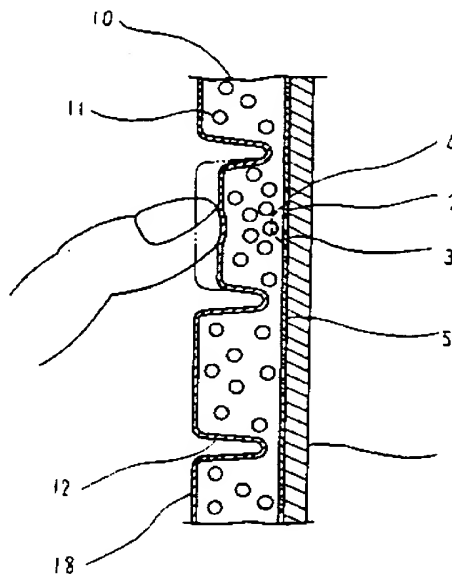
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TITLE : SOFT KEYBOARD



ABSTRACT : **PURPOSE:** To prevent the pollution, abrasion, corrosion or the like of an operating unit caused by the repeated use and improve the merchandise value and reliability by forming the operating face of a key top with a pressure conductive elastic material, short-circuiting an electrode with the other face, and providing a thin film on the surface of the operating face.

CONSTITUTION: A plate-shaped pressure conductive sponge 10 mixed with conductive metal grains 11 inside and having flexibility and load-displacement characteristic is fitted to the upper face of a substrate 1 with electrode patterns, and the surface of the substrate 1 is coated with an insulating film 5 except for a contact section 4. When a certain key is selected and the operating face of the pressure conductive elastic material 10 is pressed with a finger tip, the pressed portion of the pressure conductive elastic material 10 is compressed, and its electric resistance is decreased. Multiple electrode patterns provided on the substrate 1 are short-circuited at the pressed key position, and the selected key is detected. The pollution, abrasion, corrosion or the like of an operating unit caused by the repeated use are prevented, the merchandise value is improved, and the adverse effect such as malfunction can be excluded.

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